X

A BILL TO FURTHER AMEND THE MADRAS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES ACT, 1920, OF MR. U. RAMA RAO.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" Mr. Chairman, Sir, in deference to the wishes of my Muhammadan friends, I intend introd ucing a more comprehensive Bill at the next session of the Council which is acceptable to Muhammadans, Christians and Hindus alike. So, with your permission I beg leave to withdraw the motion next in the agenda which is standing in my name."

The motion was accordingly not made.

XI

MOTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO LOCAL BODIES.

* Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" Mr. Chairman, the motion before the House and which I beg to move runs thus :

> ' *That this Council recommends to the Government that all members of the Legislative Council should be appointed to be additional members of the local boards and municipalities within whose local jurisdiction they reside.*'

" In the first place I must emphasize to the whole House that this is in no sense a party measure, because I know that some hon. Members of my own party are not satisfied with the way in which the motion is brought up, and at the same time I am mindful of the fact that some others on the other side of the House have accorded me their support. So it is not a party question at all, and so I request that it may be dealt with on its own merits. The main reason for which I bring forward this resolution is that it is very desirable that Members of this Council should be practically in touch with the local boards in the various districts, so that they may act as a sort of link between the local bodies in the mufassal and this Council here. It is very desirable that the events that happen here, the various remarks and criticisms on the local bodies, must be translated to the local bodies, and at the same time the defects in the working, their grievances and problems must be put forward here for solution and necessary action. It is with that idea that I have brought forward this resolution and not that the membership of a taluk board, union board or a district board or municipality would confer a greater dignity than the membership of the Legislative Council. It is not for the sake of the honour and dignity that local bodies are supposed to confer but for the sake of efficient discharge of the duties entrusted to these local bodies. One difficulty has been suggested, namely, that the fluctuating number of members in the Legislative Council is a great factor which makes the constitution a little difficult to work. I would contend that there is absolutely no difficulty at all, because whatever the numbers in the Legislative Council may be for a particular district, whether it is two or ten, it does not matter because they do not affect the provisions of the Local Boards Act as it stands. This will mean another amending Bill, if the House now proposes to make such an amendment in the statute, to the effect that the number of members of the local bodies shall be such as is fixed in accordance with the Local Boards Act and the member or members of the Legislative Council for that area, would be additional members. So, it does not affect